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September 25, 2003

m/047/022

Jim Abegglen, Commissioner
Uintah County Commission
152 East 100 North
Vernal, UT 84078

Dear Commissioner Abegglen:

Subject: Reconnaissance Inspection, Uintah County Asphalt Plant, Asphalt Ridge

We enjoyed meeting with you for a reconnaissance inspection at the Uintah County Asphalt Plant at Asphalt Ridge on September 17, 2003. The inspection was performed as a follow up to a previous inspection of the facility on July 23, 2003. A copy of the inspection report is enclosed.

If you have any questions concerning the report do not hesitate to contact me at (801) 538-6951. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thomas Rushing, Environmental Scientist
Permits and Compliance Section

Enclosures: (1)

cc: Darcy O'Connor, EPA Region VIII, (w/encl.)
Joseph B. Shaffer, M.A., M.B.A., E.H.S., Director of Health, Tricounty Health Dept., (w/encl.)
Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, (w/encl.)

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EPA Form 3560-3 (Rev. 3-85) Reverse

**UINTAH COUNTY
ASPHALT PLANT, ASPHALT RIDGE
RECONNAISSANCE INSPECTION**

INSPECTION DATE SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Uintah County Asphalt Plant (plant) is located just outside of the City of Vernal in Uintah County, Utah (overview Fig 1.). The plant is located on land owned by Crown Energy (Facility Photo Fig 2.) and leased by Uintah County. Uintah County is actively mixing asphalt with gravel at the site, as per Federal and State regulations this is considered an asphalt manufacturing facility. The area has historically drained storm water in sheet and gully flow. When Crown Energy built their plant and the associated roads there was not an objective to maintain the natural drainage.

This inspection was conducted in follow up to a previous inspection at the plant on July 23, 2003 to determine if the findings and conclusions of that inspection as well as previous correspondence have been addressed. The first two items under the findings section paraphrase the major concerns from the previous inspections and give details as to the follow up.

FINDINGS

1. *Uintah County is required to obtain coverage under the Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) Multi-Sector General Permit for Industrial Activities, General Permit No. UTR00000 (MSGP). A separate letter was sent Uintah County on July 17, 2003 providing them with a copy of the permit and "Notice of Intent" form to be covered under the permit. The letter gives Uintah County 30 calendar days to obtain coverage under the permit in compliance with State rules and regulations from the date of receipt.*

Uintah County obtained coverage under the MSGP on August 8, 2003. The permit coverage was obtained within the 30 day window.

2. *It was observed that there was a potential for the discharge of contaminated storm water from the site particularly from the front gate area. The option of containing potentially contaminated storm water in retention ponds onsite was discussed. Uintah County will consider putting together specifications for the construction of onsite retention ponds. Construction plans for wastewater retention ponds require review by the Utah Division of Water Quality (DWQ).*

Dave Rupp, P.E., with the DWQ, Engineering Section attended the September 17, 2003 inspection of the asphalt facility. Uintah county agreed that plans and construction of containment structures at the plant should be done according to good engineering practices. DWQ, under separate letter is requiring that the plans for ponds at the plant be submitted for house review prior to construction.

3. The lower apron sediment berm has been reconstructed at the plant (Photo 1). The berm has been lowered to a reasonable height and has been constructed of material that appears free from asphalt material.

4. A detention area has been constructed near the entrance of the plant (Photo 2). The detention area shall be inspected during wet weather flows to determine effectiveness.

CONCLUSION

Uintah County has obtained the required permit coverage within the required time frame and has begun preliminary steps towards developing an effective storm water pollution prevention plan (SWP3) in compliance with the general permit. Efforts must continue in modifying and expanding the SWP3 and inspection efforts. Follow up efforts from the DWQ will continue and will emphasize detailed reviews of the plant's SWP3.

Uintah County Asphalt Facility
Reconnaissance Inspection 9/17/03
Photo's

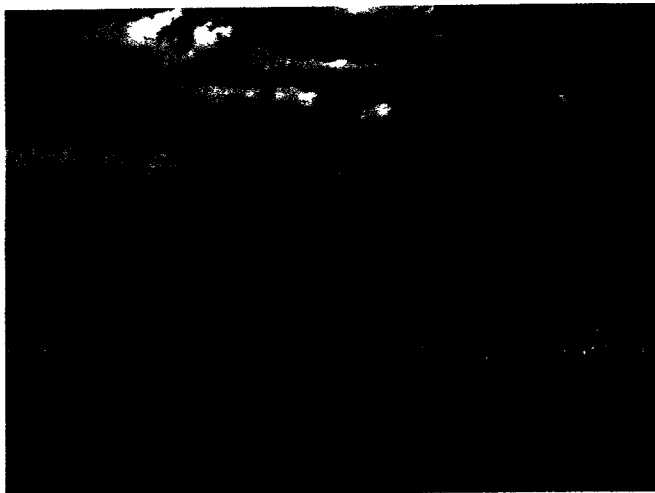


Photo 1 Berm Reconstruction (Lowered)



Photo 3 Detention Area (South)